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Reagan used filched material

CHICAGO — Top Reagan officials confirmed yesterday that Ronald Reagan's 1980 campaign used material filched from Jimmy Carter's campaign to prepare Reagan for the climactic 1980 debate between the two candidates.

But Chief of Staff James A. Baker III, Budget Director David Stockman and presidential assistant David Gergen said they could not recall how the documents reached the Reagan camp.

In letters to Rep. Don Albosta, D-Mich., who had asked for an explanation of the incident, Reagan's aides agreed that the material in a loose-leaf book dealt with policy issues but said they did not appear to reveal Carter campaign strategy.